

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OUAGAD 00775 180418Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 /033 W
-----086883 180426Z /61

R 171627Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6246

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0775

STADIS////////////////

FOR ASST SECRETARY MOOSE FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, UV
SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE II - UPPER VOLTA

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0689

1. REFTEL REPORTS PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S RECENT APPEAL FOR
FOOD AID AND DESCRIBES SERIOUS STEPS GOUV IS TAKING TO
AVOID MISMANAGEMENT OF FOOD AID WHICH HAS OCCURED IN
PAST YEARS.

2. THE FOOD SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS.
REPORTS WE GET FROM PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND MISSIONARIES
INDICATE THAT IN SOME REGIONS PEOPLE ARE ALREADY STARVING.
YET, I DON'T SEEM TO GET MUCH SYMPATHY FROM THE FOOD FOR
PEACE OFFICE IN AID. I RECOMMENDED 18,000 TONS OF FOOD
FOR DISTRIBUTION BY CRS AND BAPTIST MISSIONS BUT FFP CUT
US DOWN TO 9000 TONS. I RECOMMENDED THE DISTRIBUTION
OF ANOTHER 10,000 TONS OF SORGHUM THROUGH WFP AND THAT
WAS TURNED DOWN. FINALLY, I RECOMMENDED A BILATERAL
PROGRAM OF 5000 TONS OF SORGHUM AND 5000 TONS OF
RICE BUT I HAVE HAD NO REPLY. I CONSIDER THAT THE
38,000 TONS I HAVE RECOMMENDED IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT
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WE SHOULD PROVIDE FOR UPPER VOLTA THIS YEAR.

3. WE HAVE HAD A LONG STANDING CONTROVERSY WITH THE
UPPER VOLTA GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF ITS PREVIOUS MISMANAGE-
MENT OF FOOD AID. PERHAPS THIS IS WHY FFP IS SO RELUCTANT
TO ACCEPT MY RECOMMENDATIONS. THE FACT IS, HOWEVER, THAT
THE GOVERNMENT IS FINALLY DOING SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AND I

ASSUME THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT WANT TO DISCOURAGE
THOSE MINISTERS WHO HAVE STUCK THEIR NECKS OUT ON OUR BEHALF
BY REFUSING TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE STARVING PEOPLE OF
UPPER VOLTA.

4. THERE IS ALSO ANOTHER FACTOR RELATING TO THE FORTHCOMING
ELECTIONS. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, I HAVE TOLD PRESIDENT
LAMIZANA THAT HE HAS OUR SYMPATHY IN HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IF PEOPLE ARE
STARVING AT THE TIME OF THE ELECTIONS, THE PRESIDENT'S
POPULARITY WILL SUFFER AND THE WHOLE PROCESS OF RETURNING
THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE MAY BE PLACED IN JEOPARDY.

5. FOR ALL THE ABOVE REASONS, I WILL APPRECIATE ANYTHING
YOU CAN DO TO GET A DECENT FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR UPPER
VOLTA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480 TITLE 2, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OUAGAD00775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780075-0289
Format: TEL
From: OUAGADOUGOU
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780241/aaaabisc.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 06f0a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 OUAGADOUGOU 689
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3561631
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PL 480 TITLE II - UPPER VOLTA
TAGS: EAID, UV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/06f0a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014